



# IDAHO



## STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY FACT SHEET

April 2005

### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs:

	FY 2004 Final	FY 2004 Final	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2005 Estimate
Programs	SPF	NFP	SPF	NFP
Forest Health Management	1,014,000	772,000	289,300	1,078,800
State Fire Assistance	572,000	2,561,700	557,500	784,400
Volunteer Fire Assistance	61,000	121,600	71,600	117,800
Community Fire Protection (Stevens) NFS dollars		889,600		
Forest Stewardship Program	352,000		287,000	
Forest Land Enhancement Program			79,230	
Forest Legacy Program	3,502,000		3,496,000	
Urban and Community Forestry	268,750		251,000	
Economic Action Programs	856,600		243,000	
Fuels for Schools	410,000	50,000	50,000	
Coop Weed Management	65,800	687,200		779,500
Conservation Reserve Program	26,384			
Conservation Education	15,000		15,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,676,734</b>	<b>50,821</b>	<b>5,339,630</b>	<b>2,760,500</b>

Cooperative programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between the State of Idaho, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. They promote the health and productivity of Idaho's forest lands and rural economies. We emphasize timber and other forest products, wildlife, water resources, rural economies and conservation practices. Our goal is to maintain and improve the health of Idaho's urban and rural forests and related economies. These programs:

- **Increase cost effectiveness** through the use of partnerships in delivery,
- **Increase values** through sustained productivity of forests, and
- **Are voluntary**, and use non-regulatory approaches.

### KEY ISSUES:

Key issues which State and federal programs will address together in the next few years include:

- Wildland/Urban Interface management
- Forest health concerns related to increased age and density and decreased diversity on Federal Lands
- Rapid urbanization and subdivision development
- Threat to Idaho's forests from invasive species
- Increasing dependence on timber supply from private lands
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas
- Community transportation enhancement

## Forest Facts and 2004 Accomplishments

SELECTED FACTS		FY 2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
Population	1,393,262	Stewardship Plans Prepared (current year)	62
Acres of Forest Land	21,821,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (current year)	4,399
Acres of Non-Industrial Private Forest Land	2,106,000	Acres Under Stewardship Plans (all years)	106,991
Number of NIPF Landowners	53,975	Multi-resource practices implemented on NIPF - Acres	35,249
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	966,689	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	39
		State Fire – Communities Assisted	51
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	3,303,564	Coop Forest Health – Acres Protected	6,573
Number of Rural Fire Departments	254	Coop Forest Health – Acres Surveyed	5,844,646
Number of Cities and Towns (Incorporated)	200	Forest Legacy Project Acquisition - Acres	23,150
Forest Based Employment	17,053	Urban Forestry-Participating communities	130
		Urban Forestry –Volunteer Assistance Generated-Days	8,446
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	4th	EAP-Communités working under broad-based local strategic plans	22

### Program Highlights:

**Conservation Education:** Twenty-eight educational programs were held across the state aimed at communities and citizens with topics ranging from planting, pruning, community tree inventories and more. Additional presentations were made at schools, county fairs and community celebrations educating Idaho citizens on the value and benefits of trees in our communities and providing information regarding better care and management of community forests.

**Urban and Community Forestry:** 65% of Idaho cities were involved in the urban forestry program in Idaho in 2004. Federal and state funding generated more than a half million dollars worth of local matching support. Partnerships with the Department of Transportation, all 9 Resource Conservation and Development Councils and the State's three investor-owned utilities have helped extend the program's reach throughout the state. Idaho has gained over 60 Tree City USA's since 1995, reaching 68 in 2004 (more than a third of all cities in the state). Seventeen of these cities will receive Tree City Growth Awards for significant program improvements.

**Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group:** Idaho continued exemplary interagency coordination toward the achievement of National Fire Plan goals in 2004. We have built relationships among 14 agencies and organizations and engaged all 44 Idaho counties in community planning for fire protection. Thirty-four County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans are complete, five are under revision, and the remaining four will be completed by spring 2005. Idaho's Counties are working toward county plans that are Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA), and National Fire Plan (NFP) compliant. The Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group received the 2004 National Fire Plan Award for Excellence in Collaboration.

**Cooperative Fire Protection:** This program protects lives, property, and natural resources through the cooperative efforts of local, state, and federal entities. State Fire Assistance funding helped hire, train, and equip 36 firefighters available for national deployment. Funding was also provided for 4 interagency dispatch centers and an interagency fire cache. Volunteer Fire Assistance helped 39 fire departments purchase personal protective gear and training aids to improve the safety and effectiveness of Idaho firefighters. Keep Idaho Green ([www.keepidahogreen.org](http://www.keepidahogreen.org)) coordinated with fire prevention cooperatives, worked to create cooperatives in areas that did not yet have them, and applied for a FEMA grant on their behalf to provide funding for fire prevention activities.

**Hazard Mitigation:** Hazard mitigation dollars reduce fire risk via fuels treatments surrounding homes and communities throughout the state and via educational programs such as Firewise, which bring thousands of Idaho homeowners on board to implement these fuels reduction projects. Keep Idaho Green held several Firewise workshops and informational meetings to educate homeowners and assisted communities that were working toward obtaining a Firewise Communities/USA designation. To date, there are 40 Hazardous Fuels Reduction grants at work or recently completed on non-federal lands in Idaho.



Landowner Assistance: Idaho's Forest Stewardship Program sponsored 29 workshops on 18 topics for 458 participants. A Bi-State Forest Owner Field Day drew over 300 practitioners and landowners. The annual 2-day Family Forest Owner Conference draws over 200 attendees.

Forest Health Protection: Forest Health is providing assistance to landowners whose land has been ravaged by mountain pine beetle in the Stanley Basin of central Idaho. We responded to over 518 requests for Forest Health protection information or assistance. In 2004, Idaho Department of Lands conducted 39 detection/evaluation surveys, covering 5.8 million acres (primarily state and private ownership), and held training sessions with 1,901 attendees.

Forest Legacy Program: Idaho purchased its second Forest Legacy conservation easement on 23,150 acres in the Saint Joe River watershed, securing development and subdivision rights, public recreation access, and special management prescriptions or exclusions on sensitive areas.

Economic Action Programs: The Fuels for Schools (FFS) program in Idaho is a partnership program between the State Foresters, the Regional Foresters in Regions 1 and 4 of the USDA Forest Service, and the Panhandle Lakes RC&D. The purpose is to expand the use of small-diameter trees and slash removed in fire hazard reduction projects to heat local public schools and demonstrate the practicality, economy, and positive environmental impact of heating using biomass fuels. The program was announced in an open letter to Idaho's public school superintendents in June 2003. At the time of this report, one demonstration project has been selected, one project was declined by a community, and one project has been offered to a community and is pending a decision.

**For more information contact:**

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## **FOREST HEALTH**

### **Stanley Basin Forest Health Protection (Prevention/Restoration) Grant**

In 2004, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) initiated a Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) Prevention and Restoration Project, with funding provided by the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Regions 1 and 4. Federal Grants of \$450,000 helped forest landowners affected by the current MPB infestation to implement recommended prevention and restoration practices. Cooperation between IDL and the Sawtooth NRA resulted in a choosing an SNRA forester to administer the program.

### **Private Landowners**

In order to be awarded the grant the Homeowners agreed to address the following areas of concern. They are:

1. The removal of dead and green beetle infested trees.
2. Restorative planting using species appropriate for the site.
3. Thinning of overly dense stands, either precommercial or commercial, to provide long term resistance to attack by mountain pine beetle.
4. Use preventative sprays similar to that being done in the Sawtooth NRA campgrounds.

### **Accomplishments/Results**

Homeowner Associations contracted with local spray applicators and over 7,418 trees were sprayed to prevent further beetle attack on approximately 230 acres. Tree removal activities simultaneously removed green beetle infested and dead trees. To date, over 14,084 trees have been cut and removed from approximately 755 acres. Removing the green infested trees removes active broods and removing dead trees and slash creates room for new tree planting activities. The Forest Service assisted with burning of slash in some areas.



### **Positive Outcomes**

Homeowners have been very grateful to the Idaho Department of Lands and the Forest Service for the assistance in helping them address the mountain pine beetle epidemic. Many folks were overwhelmed and saddened with the number of dead trees on their properties and were at a loss on what to do. The Sawtooth NRA forester (grant coordinator) and IDL's Entomologist were able to educate



homeowners on proper management strategies. Without the aid of the grant, projects to create healthier stands of trees would not have gotten accomplished. Homeowners also say their neighborhoods look much better, property values are maintained, there is reduced fire danger, and most importantly existing desirable trees have been protected. The project has also benefited many local contractors involved in the work.

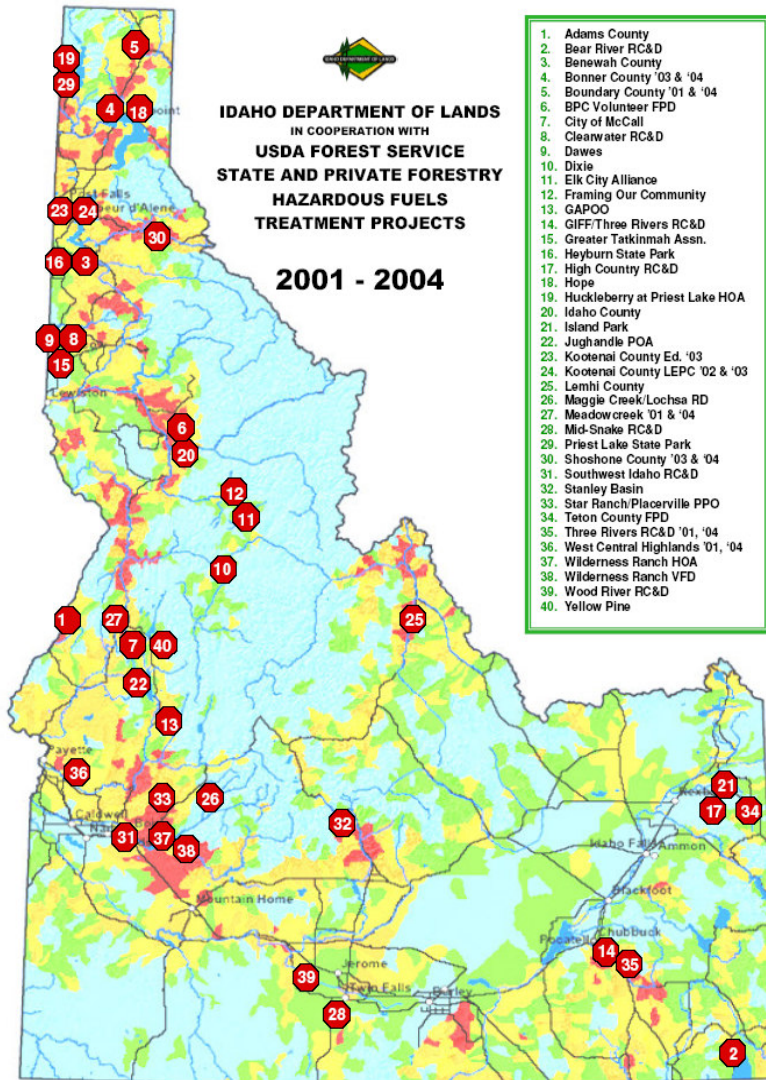
### **What's Ahead**

Homeowners will initiate tree-planting activities during the spring of 05. Spraying will continue in some areas and trees infested with mountain pine beetles will be removed along with tree thinning. Approximately 20 new grant applications are currently under review for 2005 for Blaine and Custer Counties. Jim Rineholt, Project Coordinator



## NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

The implementation of the National Fire Plan in Idaho is progressing under the guidance of the 14-member Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group (ISFPWG). More than 40 hazardous fuels treatment grants have been awarded in Idaho since 2001 in cooperation with the US Forest Service State and Private Forestry branch through the State Fire Assistance and National Forest Adjacent (Stevens) Grant Programs. Additional funds have been allocated to rural fire assistance and the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association under the direction of the ISFPWG.

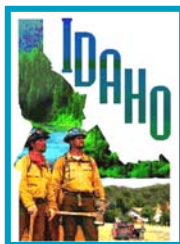


Service State and Private Forestry branch through the State Fire Assistance and National Forest Adjacent (Stevens) Grant Programs. Additional funds have been allocated to rural fire assistance and the Idaho Fire Chiefs Association under the direction of the ISFPWG.

Of the 44 counties in Idaho, 34 have completed and signed their County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans, and the remaining 10 anticipate completion no later than spring 2005.

For more information on this and other collaborative programs and collective efforts of all members of the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group implemented under the National Fire Plan in Idaho, please visit either of the following sites:  
[www2.state.id.us/lands/](http://www2.state.id.us/lands/)  
or  
[www.idahofireplan.id.gov](http://www.idahofireplan.id.gov).

Hazardous Fuels Treatment Workshop Fieldtrip, Kootenai County – 9/04



## **ECONOMIC ACTION**

The Fuels for Schools (FFS) program in Idaho is a partnership program between the State Foresters, the Regional Foresters in Regions 1 and 4 of the USDA Forest Service, and the Panhandle Lakes RC&D. The purpose is to expand the use of small-diameter trees and slash removed in fire hazard reduction projects to heat local public schools and demonstrate the practicality, economy, and positive environmental impact of heating using biomass fuels. The program was announced in an open letter to Idaho's public school superintendents in June 2003.

The Forest Service has allocated a total of \$1,040,023 to the Idaho FFS program at this time. The funds include \$50,000 to assist the Idaho Department of Lands in providing staff for program development. The funds remaining are to be used to fund Fuels for Schools projects in Idaho.

Preliminary Assessment Engineering studies of twelve schools are in progress or have been completed by CTA Architects Engineers, Inc. The school districts are St. Maries, Plummer/Worley, Cascade, Grangeville, Priest River (West Bonner), Soda Springs, Adams County, Challis, Council, Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, and Kellogg.

At the time of this report, one demonstration project has been selected, one project was declined by a community, and one project has been offered to a community and is pending a decision.

- Council School District, Council, ID. (Grant \$ 510,000)

After a school bond election defeat in May of 2004, the District regrouped and provided extensive education to the district's voters. In November, another bond election was held in which the people approved, by 74%, a 2.7 million dollar energy renovation project including a biomass boiler heating/air cooling system of four school buildings. Project is planned to be complete by fall of 2005.

*(Photo Right: Council School Building Complex, Aerial View – Nov 2004mt)*

- Boundary County School District, Bonners Ferry, ID. (FFS Grant \$303,600), cited in last years report, was returned by the District due to economic problems in the District which precluded completion of the FFS project.

- Kellogg School District has been offered a \$381,000 FFS grant. The District is in the process of selecting an ESCO contractor to accomplish an energy audit on the Districts school buildings. This will completed shortly and selection of one or two schools for biomass heating conversion is anticipated by February 2005. Project completion is planned for fall of 2005.

